

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11. (canceled).

Claim 12. (currently amended): A method for data transmission between two communications devices via a packet-oriented communications network, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a time-slot-oriented data format, formed from a periodic sequence of channel-specific information segments, for the data transmission between the two communications devices;

providing a data packet for the data transmission between the two communications devices wherein the data packet includes a user data area;

subdividing the user data area into at least one first subpacket of a first length and into a second subpacket of a second length, wherein the at least one first subpacket includes a header with a segment identifier and a length identifier; and

transmitting data of the same channel-specific information segment in a respective one of the at least one first subpacket, wherein the at least one first subpacket is allocated by the segment identifier to the respective channel-specific information segment and the number of data transmitted in the respective at least one first subpacket is defined by the length identifier.

Claim 13. (previously presented): A method for data transmission between two communications devices via a packet-oriented communications network as claimed in claim 12, the method further comprising the step of:

effecting the data transmission between communications terminal devices and a switching system, the communications terminal devices being connected via at least one transfer unit to the packet-oriented communications network.

Claim 14. (previously presented): A method for data transmission between two communications devices via a packet-oriented communications network as claimed in claim 12, the method further comprising the step of:

allocating each of the at least one first subpacket to the respective channel-specific information segment, the transmission of each of the at least one first subpacket being suppressible.

Claim 15. (previously presented): A method for data transmission between two communications devices via a packet-oriented communications network as claimed in claim 12, the method further comprising the steps of:

transmitting dummy data in the second subpacket; and

selecting the length of the second subpacket such that a total length of the transmitted at least one first subpacket and the second subpacket corresponds to a length of the user data area of the data packet.

Claim 16. (previously presented): A method for data transmission between two communications devices via a packet-oriented communications network as claimed in claim 12, wherein the second subpacket is at least 8 bytes long.

Claim 17. (canceled).

Claim 18. (previously presented): A method for data transmission between two communications devices via a packet-oriented communications network as claimed in claim 12, wherein the time-slot-oriented data format is a standardized IOM-2 data format.

Claim 19. (previously presented): A method for data transmission between two communications devices via a packet-oriented communications network as claimed in claim 12, wherein data is transmitted via the packet-oriented communications network based on an Asynchronous Transfer Mode data format.

Claim 20. (previously presented): A method for data transmission between two communications devices via a packet-oriented communications network as claimed in claim 19, wherein two-way conversion between the time-slot-oriented data format and the Asynchronous Transfer Mode data format is effected via a fifth Asynchronous Transfer Mode adaptation layer AAL5 agreement.

Claim 21. (previously presented): A method for data transmission between two communications devices via a packet-oriented communications network as claimed in claim 19, wherein data to be transmitted between a communications terminal device and a switching system is transmitted via an existing dedicated connection between the switching system and the Asynchronous Transfer Mode transfer unit, via which the communications terminal device is connected to the Asynchronous Transfer Mode-based communication network.

Claim 22. (previously presented): A method for data transmission between two communications devices via a packet-oriented communications network as claimed in claim 19, wherein data to be transmitted between a communications terminal device and a switching system is transmitted via a connection individually set up for the data transmission between the switching system and the Asynchronous Transfer Mode transfer unit, via which the communications terminal device is connected to the Asynchronous Transfer Mode-based communications network.